

March 10, 2023

Representative Lauren Boebert  
Longworth 1713  
Washington, DC 20510  
Attn: Jeff.Small@mail.house.gov

Dear Representative Boebert,

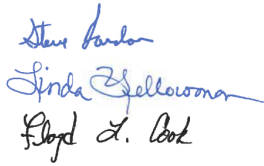
Dolores, Montezuma and San Miguel Counties would like to express our appreciation for your support of the proposed Dolores National Conservation Area and Special Management Area. Along with key regional stakeholders, we have been working together for over a decade to build this diligently vetted and broadly supported proposal. We are confident the legislation reflects the considerable regional collaboration to build a locally supported land designation and long-term management approach for this highly valued landscape. Stakeholders include local and tribal governments, water users, agricultural interests, conservation groups, hunters and anglers and recreationists as well as staff from Senator Bennet's office.

As county commissioners, we intend for our non-partisan collaboration, including our three county governments to continue to engage throughout the management of the NCA. In addition, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe's support and participation in crafting the language of this bill is equally important as we recognize and honor their historic use of these lands and deep knowledge of the natural resources. We intend for our regional partnerships to continue to guide the management of the surrounding natural resources and local economic opportunities that we hope this NCA will bring. The partnership of San Miguel, Dolores, Montezuma Counties and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe is one that we celebrate locally and one that reflects the broad support for this proposal across Southwest Colorado.

The main purpose of the Dolores NCA is the protection of all identified Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) while respecting and protecting private property rights, water rights and the Dolores Project/McPhee Reservoir and its allocations. The NCA was designed to protect historic uses and develop a locally crafted alternative to a potential Wild & Scenic River designation. We are confident that this NCA legislation maintains the water rights vitally important to agricultural interests and other long-time uses, while also protecting the conservation, recreation and scientific resources of the Dolores River corridor. Key provisions include preservation of existing water rights and continued operations in support of those water rights, valid existing mineral claims, private property rights, agricultural opportunities and the MCPhee Reservoir operations and contracts and prohibition on new road construction, emphasis on native fish protection and protection of the Dolores River corridor included in the NCA.

These provisions have been carefully crafted and thoroughly vetted. As the Bill moves through the congressional process we ask that you work hard to prevent changes to the language of the Bill.

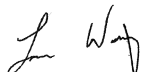
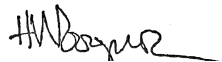
We worked diligently to set aside our political differences at the local level to focus on preserving and protecting a river system we all depend on. We appreciate your support by introducing the Dolores River National Conservation Area and Special Management Area. We look forward to working with you and your staff as we move this important legislation forward.



Steve Garcher, Dolores County  
Linda Yellowman, Dolores County  
Floyd Cook, Dolores County



Jim Candelaria, Montezuma County  
Kent Lindsay, Montezuma County  
Gerald Koppenhafer, Montezuma County



Hilary Cooper, San Miguel County  
Lance Waring, San Miguel County  
Kris Holstrom, San Miguel County